

**T**his brochure explains the ventilation system in your new Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Home, or Energy Star® manufactured home:

- ▶ Why homes need ventilation
- ▶ How to operate the ventilation system in your home



If you have questions about your ventilation system, contact your manufacturer, retailer or Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes state representative:

**Northwest Energy Efficient  
Manufactured Homes (NEEM) Hotline:**  
(888) 355-6277

**Oregon Department of Energy**  
(888) 221-8035 (toll free in Oregon)  
(503) 378-4040


**Washington State University  
Cooperative Extension  
Energy Program**  
(360) 956-2046

**Idaho Department of Water  
Resources – Energy Division**  
(800) 334-SAVE (toll free in Idaho)  
or (208) 287-4800

**Montana Department of  
Environmental Quality**  
(406) 444-6864

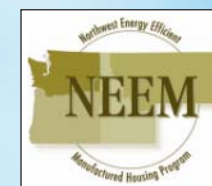


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# UNDERSTANDING AND OPERATING

## Your Ventilation System



## ▶ Why *ventilate*?

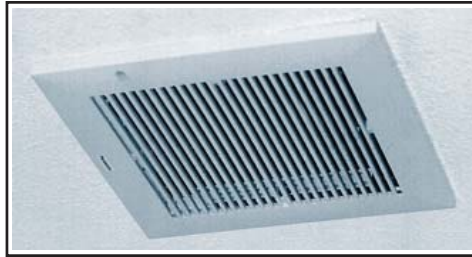
Whether they're site-built or manufactured under the NEEM/ Energy Star program, today's homes are sealed tight for comfort and energy efficiency — and to give you control over the indoor environment.

Homes need a ventilation system to remove moisture, pollutants and odors that can build up inside. Excess moisture can damage walls, ceilings and floors and lead to mold and mildew problems. Pollutants such as carbon monoxide from backdrafting fireplaces or gas heaters may cause health problems.

## ▶ What kind of *ventilation system* does my home have?

The energy-efficient ventilation system in your NEEM or Energy Star home is designed to run continuously to maintain healthy airflow.

The system commonly relies upon an upgraded exhaust fan, usually in the utility room or hallway, to provide ventilation for your whole house.



It's quieter, better quality and more reliable than a typical bathroom fan. And it uses less energy than a 50-watt light bulb.

Some manufactured homes may utilize a Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) to provide whole house ventilation.

If your home has an HRV, it is important that you review the maintenance and operation manual, to ensure proper long term operation and effectiveness.

## ▶ How do I operate my *ventilation system*?

Your ventilation system is designed to run **24 hours a day**. But you can adjust operation or temporarily turn it off using one of these controls provided by your manufacturer:

- a clock timer,
- an on/off switch on the wall labeled "Ventilation" or
- a separate breaker in the electrical panel.

Because you have control, you can change the operation for each season or situation:

- During high winds, or if your home is very dry during the winter, you can operate it less.
- If you are allergic to airborne particles such as pollen or molds, check with your doctor about reducing operation during allergy season. Better yet, add an air filtration system in your home to screen out allergens while keeping your home ventilated.

**At a minimum, always operate the system when the home is occupied.**

If you see moisture condensation or mold, smell odors or sense that the air is stale, it's a sign that you need to operate the ventilation system continuously as designed.

